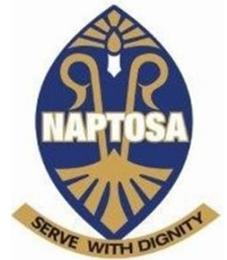


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



SERVING EDUCATION SINCE 1904

Visit our website: www.naptosa.org.za

NNF 30 of 2020 29 June 2020

RECKLESS CALL FOR TEACHER STAYAWAY

We are aware that there are calls for teachers and learners to stay away from school on 1 and 2 July 2020.

Whenever there is such a call, certain questions MUST be asked. Who is making the call? In this instance it is the *Educators Union of South Africa (EUSA)*. Never heard of them? - not surprising, because the union is not a recognised union. In other words, the Employer (Department of Education) does not recognise this Union and will not consult, negotiate or enter into any discussions with them. The union did apply for organisational rights to the CCMA and failed as they could not prove audited membership statistics. In fact, it is the very union that propagated for teachers to carry arms to schools.

Sitting on the sidelines, not being part of discussions between education departments and recognised trade unions in the education sector, it is easy to make populist statements like “Closure of all schools” and “Angie must fall”. Exploiting a very serious situation to gain attention is opportunistic, to encourage educators to act outside the law is not only inexcusable, but downright immoral and irresponsible. If you carry no responsibility for the welfare of teachers, you do not squirm to use them as pawns.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

When there is a call for a stayaway, the processes prescribed by the Labour Relations Act (LRA) must be followed. No union can just call for a stayaway at a whim or as an afterthought. An application needs to be made to NEDLAC, the matter needs to be discussed in NEDLAC, to be followed by a notice of at least 14 days to NEDLAC of the union’s intention to proceed with the action. For any teacher to participate in protest action (stayaway) that does not adhere to the LRA requirements is to open him/ herself up for disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal or leave without pay. Worse, the union calling for the stayaway will not be able to represent you when the employer acts against you.

Members are urged to ignore the calls by EUSA and not to put their careers at risk for a foolish and reckless venture. NAPTOSA is at the coalface fighting for your interests, welfare and safety. Do not be side-tracked by actions of organisations that have no standing in the sector and is merely on a popularity crusade. NAPTOSA members are responsible professionals and will not get carried away by cheap politicking.

BASIL MANUEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR